



## NPDES II Municipal Roundtable in July

By March 2003, all municipalities in Lake County will be required to have a permit for phase two of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). NPDES is entering its second phase in an effort to address the remaining nonpoint source pollution issues with municipal storm sewer outfalls.

Consequently, SMC is sponsoring an informal municipal roundtable discussion on July 17 to solicit ideas on how best to collectively meet the Phase II requirements in Lake County. Measurable, annual objectives addressing 6 "minimum control measures" are required.

All Lake County village managers, public works directors, enforcement officers, drainage district representatives, county officials and elected officials are invited.

One advantage Lake County has over others is that through the countywide activities of SMC, including the WDO, four of the six phase two program components are already in place.

The roundtable will be held at Independence Grove Forest Preserve starting at 9 a.m. Invitees will be receiving a letter of invitation. For more information, call Susan Vancil at 918-5265.

## Board Approves SMC/Corps ICA

An Interagency Cooperation Agreement (ICA) has been prepared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Chicago District (Corps), SMC, and the Lake County Planning, Building and Development Department (PBD), which will create a working program for the SMC and PBD to conduct inspections and make jurisdictional determinations (JDs) of wetlands and other waters within their respective jurisdictions in Lake County.

The intent of the ICA is to increase the level of public service by expediting the permit review process through coordination and cooperation of the involved agencies.

*cont'd on page 2.*

## Public Comment To Begin on Update Plan

SMC Board of Commissioners will begin a 60-day public comment period for the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan Update.

The public review will run July 1 - August 29. A public hearing will be held on Wed., August 14, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., 10th Floor, County Building, 18 N. County St., Waukegan. Written comments will be accepted throughout the public review period. Send your comments to: LCSMC, 333-B Peterson Rd., Libertyville, IL 60048.

Copies of the Plan Update will be made available for viewing at SMC offices and at your local library's reference section.

Following the public review period, comments will be incorporated into the Update Plan. SMC and the County Board will need to adopt the final plan.

For over a year and a half, SMC and its Stormwater Advisory Committee have worked to develop a realistic vision for comprehensive stormwater management in Lake County over the next 5-10 years. "Expanded" services outlined in

the update include flood hazard mitigation efforts, nonpoint source pollution requirements, watershed management planning, and drainage system restoration.

Public Hearing on the  
Comp Plan Update  
Wed., August 17, 2002  
6:30-8:00 p.m.  
County Building  
18 N. County Street  
Waukegan

Comp Plan Update will be available for  
viewing at SMC or your local  
library's reference section.

## Wetland Specialists Recently Certified

Over 55 municipal and consulting engineers and wetland professionals have passed SMC's Certified Wetland Specialist exam offered last month. With the certification the CWS can now develop or review isolated wetland permit applications required by the WDO. The current list of CWS' is on our website at: [www.co.lake.il/smc](http://www.co.lake.il/smc).

Anyone interested in taking the Certified Wetland Specialist exam can call Chris Gardner, 918-5262 to schedule a time.

The exam is open book and based on WDO wetland requirements. If you are taking the exam, please bring a copy of the WDO with you. The WDO is also available to download from our website.

## Wetland ICA

*cont'd from page 1*

Under the ICA, permit applicants may request that SMC or PBD wetland specialists (PBD wetland specialists in unincorporated Lake County) conduct office reviews and site inspections, and provide a preliminary jurisdictional determination. SMC or PBD will advise the Corps as to the presence of Isolated Waters of Lake County (IWLC) on proposed development sites.

For sites that are "Waters of the U.S." under Corps jurisdiction, the applicant will still need a final Corps letter.

Prior to the ICA, the Corps has been conducting all JDs, which can have extended response times. By SMC (and PBD) conducting the JDs, this time frame will be significantly reduced. For more information, call Glenn Westman, 918-3611.

## SMC Topic of Visit

The Atlanta Regional Planning Commission invited County Board Chairman, Suzi Schmidt, to make a presentation in May on SMC's program and it's successful grant leveraging capabilities.

Both Schmidt and SMC Executive Director, Ward Miller, were on hand to answer questions following an overview on SMC's regulatory program, planning projects, and the challenges the program still faces. Of particular interest was SMC's draft plan update process and how the first comprehensive management plan has been implemented since 1990.

Atlanta's planning commission is seeking to set up a regional stormwater program and is visiting successful stormwater programs for ideas.



## County Government Week in Lake County

*SMC took part in Lake County's first County Government Week in May. The focus was on the services and programs of countywide agencies and departments. Speakers, roundtable discussions, and displays were part of the week long event open to the public. Above: Ward Miller, SMC Executive Director, answers questions from some residents.*

## LC Public Works Sponsors Two Gages

The Lake County Department of Public Works is sponsoring two new gages as part of SMC's rain gage network. The new gages are located in Wildwood and Long Lake. These are two areas that

## Des Plaines Phase II Officially Begins

The beginning of the \$9.8 million study of flood damage reduction and environmental restoration along the Upper Des Plaines River and its tributaries officially started at the June 5 public meeting in Grayslake. Over 50 were in attendance representing local units of government, flood victims, environmental groups, and county departments and agencies.

The meeting, sponsored by SMC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other project partners, was an opportunity to solicit public comments on ways to reduce damages from flooding along the Des Plaines River and its' tributaries in both Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin and to address environmental restoration and protection, water quality, recreation and related issues.

"Our goal was to save time, money, and effort by determining which issues or resources are most important so that the phase two process can focus on the important issues as identified by the stakeholders," said Ward Miller, Executive Director.

The study area includes the river and its tributaries upstream of Salt Creek, in northeastern Illinois (Cook and Lake counties) and southeastern Wisconsin (Kenosha and Racine counties).

See the project website for updates at: [www.lrc.usace.army.mil/projects/despltribs](http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/projects/despltribs).

have incurred some flooding in the past.

Also, Village of Lindenhurst's new gage will be up within the next couple of months. Watch our website for these new gages.

SMC monthly meetings now start at 6:30 p.m. See page 4 for upcoming meeting dates.

## Watershed Signs Up

New watershed signs are up in the Fish Creek, Sequoit and Squaw Creek watersheds. Fish and Squaw signs are at Nippersink and Fish Lake Roads. Sequoit and Squaw are about a quarter mile south from Grand on Cedar Lake Road. SMC is currently conducting watershed management plans in these priority watersheds.

## WP II Continues

Williams Park phase two buyout project continued this spring. SMC acquired and demolished ten more homes with four more this summer. To date, 35 homes have been taken out of flood damage areas thanks to funding from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, County of Lake and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



### Summer Interns On Board

*(l-r): Sean Wiedel, Intern Coordinator; Samuel Gillet, Jennifer Ingles and Kimberly Labno. Detention facility inventories and natural resource inventories will be their main duties to support SMC's watershed planning efforts.*

### 319 Project Tour

SMC, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency representatives toured four IEPA 319 grant projects: Maple Park on Sylvan Lake stream restoration, Rivershire pond retrofit, and Reed Turner sedge meadow restoration. Over \$150,000 in IEPA grants are funding these projects in the Des Plaines Watershed.

## Mitigation Act of 2000 and Local Impact

This February the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the interim Hazard Mitigation Act of 2000 rules. The Interim Act outlines state and local mitigation planning guidelines for accessing Hazard Mitigation Program funds. According to the interim rules, for disasters declared after November 1, 2003, a local government must have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan in order to receive HMGP project grants.

Until that deadline, local governments may be able to receive a grant concurrent with all hazards planning.

The goal of these amendments is to reduce the nation's disaster losses and to streamline the disaster recovery process through pre-hazard mitigation planning.

The multijurisdictional planning process must be in an open, public forum, and include key stakeholders including relevant

## SMC Moves Ahead With Des Plaines EPM Funded Projects

SMC is utilizing a \$500,000 grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to begin work on nine projects totalling \$1.1 million.

Projects were chosen that will ultimately lead to demonstrable in-the-ground benefits to the natural resources in the Upper Des Plaines River watershed.

The projects include water quality and habitat enhancements, both of which are consistent with the EPA's clean water objectives, but complements two other environmentally-oriented projects - the Des Plaines River Phase II Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and the Illinois River 2020 Project (which seeks to restore the

environmental attributes of the river, into which the Des Plaines flows).

Intergovernmental agreements for projects with the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Village of Lake Zurich are currently being developed. Projects include:

### Lake County Forest Preserve District Habitat Assessment & Restoration Projects:

- *Ethel Woods wetland habitat restoration study*
- *Ryerson Woods water resources study, wetland restoration design*
- *Wadsworth Savannah wetland restoration study/design*

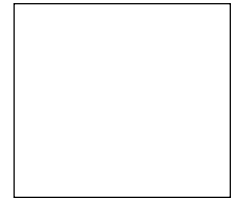
### ● Lake Zurich Detention/ Water Quality Retrofit Design

### SMC Upper Des Plaines Phase II Resource Assessment & Planning:

- *Newport Drainage Ditch water resources modeling and watershed planning*
- *Newport Drainage Ditch stream gages*
- *North Mill Creek watershed restoration action strategy*



**Lake County Stormwater Management Commission**  
333-B Peterson Road  
Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
(847) 918-5260  
[www.co.lake.il.us/smc](http://www.co.lake.il.us/smc)



**Board of Commissioners**

Steve Mountsier, *Chairman*, County Board #17  
Tom Adams, *Vice Chair*, Village of Green Oaks  
Carol Spielman, *Secretary*, County Board #22  
Tim Perry, *Treasurer*, Village of Grayslake  
Bonnie Thomson Carter, County Board #5  
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Steve Harris, City of Highland Park  
Jim Krischke, Village of Lake Zurich  
Martha Marks, County Board #21  
Loretta McCarley, County Board #2  
John Schulien, County Board #13  
Tom Skinner, Village of Lake Bluff

Ward Miller, AICP, Executive Director

**Summer 2002 Newsletter - Please notify us of address changes.**

**For Your Information**

**NOTE NEW START TIME FOR SMC MONTHLY MEETINGS!**

**SMC Meetings - 6:30 p.m.**

July 11 (due to July 4th holiday),  
August 1, September 5. SMC offices.

**TAC Meetings - 8:30 a.m.**

July 18, August 16, September 20.  
SMC offices.

**NAI Report....**See what SMC and other counties and communities are doing to reduce the impacts of flooding. The latest NAI Report through the Association of State Floodplain Mangers' "No Adverse Impact" project: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

**Check it out...**See the new County of Lake's website at: [www.co.lake.il.us](http://www.co.lake.il.us). You can access SMC's website through the County's as an option.

**Stay up on the Squaw Watershed Planning Effort...**See our website for the next meeting or call Jason at 918-5275.

**Meet Our New Permit Engineers**



*l-r:* Permit engineers Bob Gardiner, PE, 918-7690; Minal Steinemen, PE, CFM, 918-5263.

**Disaster Mitigation Act 2000**

*cont'd from page 3*

local and regional agencies, businesses, academia, non-profit interests. The local plan must address all potential natural hazards and include documentation of the planning process, a risk assessment of all of the natural

hazards, a mitigation strategy, a plan maintenance process, and documentation of plan adoption.

Watch FEMA's website for more on the Act: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).